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HISTORY AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

UPPER CANADIAN

Rifle Association;

AND THE

RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION,

TOGETHER WITH

A LIST OF THE OFFICERS

FOR 1861.

TORONTO:

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ROBERT B. DENISON, MAJOR.
GEORGE T. DENISON, JR., CAPTAIN.
DOUGLAS G. MACDONALD, CAPT.
WILLIAM PATERSON, LIEUTENANT.
} **Managing Committee.**

PATRON:

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE RT. HONORABLE VISCOUNT MONCK,

Governor General and Commander-in-Chief.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION, 1861.

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COLONEL GEORGE T. DENISON, *Commandant, Toronto.*

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LIEUT. PATERSON, *Toronto.*

Trustees:

MAJOR DENISON, MAJOR BROOKE and MAJOR SMITH, *Toronto.*

Secretary:

CAPTAIN DOUGLAS G. MACDONALD, *Toronto.*

PREFACE.

The Council publish this History and Proceedings of the Association, together with its rules, in order to explain to the Active Force of Upper Canada, and the public generally, the cause of the apparent neglect of the Association, in not having had its contemplated Rifle Match this Autumn; and also to shew, that although this Association has, from the first, been willing to form an amalgamation with the "Canadian Rifle Association," yet from no fault of theirs, they have been unable to do so—through the inability of the "Canadian Rifle Association" to obtain a meeting of its Council since its first formation, (a period of more than six months,) to enable them to entertain and answer our proposals. This Association, having therefore now determined to proceed with its original object, the Council appeals to the Active Force of Upper Canada, to use their utmost exertions to advance the interest of an Institution so eminently calculated to exercise a beneficial influence on their organization. The Council also appeals to the public at large, to assist the Active Force in supporting the Association in its laudable efforts to increase the skill, efficiency and usefulness of the only organized Force for National defence, that the Province at present possesses.

HISTORY AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Upper Canadian Rifle Association,

1861.

On the Second March, 1861, the following letters appeared in the Canada Gazette :—

DOWNING STREET, February 8, 1861.

SIR.—I transmit to you a copy of a letter from Lord Elcho, the Chairman of the National Rifle Association, informing me, that in accordance with Her Majesty's desire, Colonial Volunteers will be entitled to compete for the Queen's prize, at their Annual Prize Meeting, upon the same terms as the Volunteers of Great Britain, and that the Association will give one Silver Medal to Colonial Rifle Associations. I transmit to you for general information copies of the Association's proceedings, containing their rules, &c.

I have to request that you will make Her Majesty's gracious desire publicly known in the Colony under your Government. You will at the same time take such steps as may appear to you best adapted for giving effect to the intentions of the Association, and will make application through me, for the Silver Medal, when any organized body or bodies exist in the colony under your Government, who are desirous of competing for it

I have, &c.,

[Signed,] NEWCASTLE.

THE RIGHT HONORABLE SIR EDMUND HEAD, BART.

I much arrived at Duke to
move in the matter of a
Canadian Rifle association

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION,
11 Pall-Mall East, Jan 28, 1861.

MY LORD DUKE,—I have the honor to inform your Grace, that in accordance with Her Majesty's desire, Colonial Volunteers will be entitled to compete for the Queen's prize, at our Annual Prize Meeting, on the same terms as the Volunteers of Great Britain; and I have further to inform your Grace, that with a view still further to connect the Colonies with the mother Country, in the matter of Rifle Shooting, the Council of the National Rifle Association have resolved to give one Silver Medal to Colonial Rifle Associations. These Medals will be allotted in the proportion of one to each Colony, on application from the Colonial Authorities, sanctioned by the Colonial Office.

The History and Proceedings of the National Rifle Association, (1860,) containing our rules, &c., and the Statistics of the Wimbledon Prize Meeting, being now published, I shall be glad to know if your Grace would wish to send any copies to the Colonies, as they might perhaps be of use in the formation of Colonial Association.

I have, &c.,

[Signed,] ELCHO,
Chairman of the Council of the N. R. A.

P. S.—The next Annual Prize Meeting of the National Rifle Association, takes place early in July.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, K. G.

19 March, wrote for copy
28 " Received a copy

A meeting of the officers of the Active Force of Toronto was held in their meeting room, Parliament Buildings, on Thursday, the 4th of April, and adjourned until instructions should be received from the Adjutant General's Department on the subject of the formation of a Rifle Association.

5 Apr
Letter
12 Comm
to Col
Lemon

On Thursday, the 11th instant, a second meeting was held in the officers' rooms, Parliament Buildings. Col-

1 April Published Sketch of History and Proceedings of N. R. A.

onel Denison was called to the chair; Captain Macdonald was requested to act as Secretary. The chairman then read a letter from the Adjutant General's Office, stating that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief had no suggestions to offer with regard to the formation of a Rifle Association, but that he should be very happy should the officers take any steps that would increase their own skill and efficiency. The subject being then discussed, the meeting considered that as many weeks had passed since the publication of the Duke of Newcastle's letter, and no steps had been taken at any other post to start the formation of a Colonial Association, that therefore the officers of Toronto would be acting for the benefit of the Volunteer Force of Canada by taking the initiative and requesting the co-operation of the various corps in the Province in their undertaking. It was therefore

Resolved,—That it being considered advisable that an Association should be formed for the encouragement of rifle shooting in Canada, we are of opinion that the best means of promoting the formation of such an Association would be adopted by holding a meeting of representatives from the various corps of the Force to take the matter into consideration.

It was then considered (as there are sixty-two corps in Upper Canada and only about thirty in Lower Canada) that Toronto would be the most convenient place for calling the meeting, and it was therefore

Resolved,—That a meeting of representatives from the several corps of the Volunteer Militia be held at the Active Force Room in the Parliament Buildings, in the City of Toronto, on Thursday, the 25th April, 1861, at one o'clock P. M., for the purpose of forming a Rifle Association, passing by-laws, and electing officers; and Col. Denison, Commandant; Lieut. Col. Durie,

2nd Battalion; Capt. Denison, York Cavalry; Capt Macdonald 2nd Battalion; Lieut. Patterson, Toronto Field Battery; and Lieut. Gardner, 2nd Battalion, are hereby appointed a Committee for requesting the attendance of representatives, and to take the necessary steps for carrying this resolution into effect.

In accordance with the foregoing resolution, circulars were sent to all the commanding officers requesting them to attend the meeting, or to have their corps represented at it.

A meeting was accordingly held on the 25th April' which was largely attended by officers of the Upper Canadian Force, about thirty-five corps being represented. Colonel G. T. Denison, Commandant of the Toronto District, was called to the chair, and Captain D. G. Macdonald of Toronto, was requested to act as Secretary.

? on the 24 a return for a Senior at Toronto was published and on the 24 the Upper Canadian was formed.

Col. Denison then explained the course the Toronto Force had taken and the manner in which the meeting had been called. He then went on to state the benefit that would result from the formation of a Rifle Association. The Secretary was requested to read the letters that had been received in answer to the circular calling the meeting, the letters were from officers in all parts of the Province, regretting that they could not attend, but approving of the movement and promising their co-operation.

Lieut. Col. Durie said, that the committee had hoped that the Lower Canadian Force would have assisted the Upper Canadian in the movement, and they had there fore prepared a constitution to submit to the meeting that would be applicable to both Provinces. He was sorry to say however, that only one corps in Lower

Canada had seemed disposed to join the Association, and as the Lower Canadian Force was not represented at the meeting that the first constitution could not be adopted, and that he should be obliged to propose a constitution for Upper Canada only. Having read the draft of the proposed constitution for the Canadian Rifle Association, he then proposed a constitution for an Upper Canadian Rifle Association, which was put to the meeting clause by clause and adopted.

The meeting having appointed the Office-holders for the current year, was then adjourned.

At a meeting of Council, held on Tuesday, 30th April, a sub-committee was appointed, and it was agreed that a meeting of Council should be held on the first Wednesday of each month. On the 2nd May, the Council learned that an Association had been formed in Quebec, on the 27th April, under the name of the "Canadian Rifle Association," of which no notice had been given to the Force in Upper Canada. On the same day, Colonel Denison left for England, and while in Quebec, with a view to form an amalgamation of the two Associations, addressed the following letter to the Secretary of the Canadian Association:—

QUEBEC, 10th May, 1861.

SIR,—I have, since my arrival in Quebec, been in communication with officers of the Upper Canada Rifle Association, and I find the feeling to be general, that there should be no rivalry between the Association of which I am President, and the general Association since formed, with the same object in view. I therefore hope that the General Association will pass resolutions, accepting the present organization of Upper Canada, through its Active Force, as a subordinate to the larger one, so as to benefit by the exertions already made by those in Upper

Canada, in behalf of the object we all have in view, namely: "The encouragement of Volunteer Rifle Corps, and the promotion of Rifle Shooting throughout the Province." I am to leave Canada for Europe to-morrow morning, and I shall be obliged therefore, to leave all matters in the hands of yourselves.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obediant servant,

[Signed,] GEO. T. DENISON, COLONEL,
President Upper Canada Rifle Association.

LIEUT. COL. JARVIS,
Secretary Canadian Rifle Association.

P. S.—Captain DOUGLAS G. MACDONALD is the Secretary to whom any communication should be addressed.

No answer having been received to the foregoing, the following communication was addressed to the Secretary of the Canadian Rifle Association:—

TORONTO, 20th May, 1861.

SIR,—I am informed by Colonel Denison that he has written to you respecting the amalgamation of the Upper Canadian, with the Canadian Rifle Association, and as the Council of the Upper Canadian Association will meet shortly, it would facilitate matters if we knew upon what terms you propose that we should join the General Association. Will you be so kind as to let me know what has been done in the matter in Quebec, or what is likely to be proposed?

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

(Signed,) DOUGLAS MACDONALD, CAPTAIN,
Secretary Upper Canadian Rifle Association.

LIEUT. COL. JARVIS,
Secretary Canadian
Rifle Association, Quebec.

To which the following reply was received:—

CANADIAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION,
Head Quarters, Toronto, 29th May, 1861.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, which has been sent to me from

Quebec, Toronto being now the Head Quarters of this Association. In reply, I beg to inform you that I handed Colonel Denison's letter, which he addressed to me at Quebec, to Col. Thompson, the Commandant of the No. 5 Military District, on the Queen's Birthday, in order that the contents thereof might be laid before the Active Force. The proceedings which have taken place at Quebec, have been communicated to the Lieut. Colonels and other Officers in command of the several Battallions of the Sedentary Militia, and to the senior of the Active Force throughout the Province. The Council of this Association will be called in Toronto at an early day, when your letter will be laid before it. In the meantime, without presuming to dictate to the Upper Canadian Rifle Association, Toronto, I would respectfully "suggest," that they continue their organization, as a separate Association in connexion with the Canadian Rifle Association; handing in the names of each of the officers, non-commissioned officers and men, together with the sn bscriptions according to their relative rank, as may be willing to join the Canadian Rifle Association, retaining any balance which may remain, to meet the incidental expenses of their Local Association, under the name which now exists, or such other as they may think fit to assume.

I would also respectfully suggest that any resolutions which may be adopted towards the amalgamation of the Association, may be transmitted to me at as early a day as convenient, in order to be laid before the Council at its first meeting.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[Signed,] W. B. JARVIS, LIEUT. COL.,
Secretary.

CAPTAIN DOUGLAS MACDONALD,
Secretary Upper Canadian Rifle Association.

On the fifth June, a Meeting of the Council of the Upper Canadian Rifle Association was held, when it was

Resolved,—That the letter of Colonel Denison, to the Secretary of the Canadian Rifle Association, dated Quebec, 10th May, 1861, having been read by the Secretary, this Council approves of the same, and in reference thereto, it is now

Resolved,—That this Council, entertaining the same views a expressed in that letter, and having the same sincere desire of promoting Volunteer Rifle Corps, and the encouragement of Rifle Shooting, is willing to amalgamate the "Upper Canadian Rifle Association" with the "Canadian Rifle Association," and consider the best mode of carrying out so desirable an object, would be by an amalgamation of both councils.

These resolutions were transmitted to the Secretary of the "Canadian Rifle Association," with a request to lay them before the first meeting of the Council.

On the 10th June, the following letter was received:

CANADIAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION,
Head Quarter's Office, Toronto, 10th June, 1861.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 7th instant, and in reply, beg to inform you that it shall be laid before the Council of the "Canadian Rifle Association," at its first meeting.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[Signed,] W. B. JARVIS, LIEUT. COL.,
Secretary.

CAPTAIN DOUGLAS MACDONALD,
Secretary, U. C. R. A.

The Council of the Upper Canadian Rifle Association then stopped all proceedings, in expectation of receiving an answer to their Resolutions, until the 11th September, when the following communication was forwarded to the Secretary of the Canadian Association:—

TORONTO, 11th September, 1861.

SIR,—I am requested by Colonel Denison, President of the Upper Canadian Rifle Association, to communicate with you, with a view to ascertain what action has been taken by the Council of the "Canadian Rifle Association," in reference to the resolutions passed at a meeting of the Upper Canadian Rifle Association, held on the 5th June last, respecting an amalgamation of the Councils of both Associations. As it is advisable that no further delay be made in collecting subscriptions and otherwise making preparations for the contemplated

Annual Match. I am instructed to request that you will inform me, at as early a date as convenient, what the decision of the Council is in this matter, or what probability there is of a joint Association being formed.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

[Signed,] DOUGLAS G. MACDONALD, CAPT.,
Secretary U. C. Rifle Association.

LIEUT. COL. JARVIS,
Secretary Canadian Rifle Association, Toronto.

To which the following answer was received:—

CANADIAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION,
Head-Quarter's Office, Toronto, Sept. 14, 1861.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst., which came to hand this morning. In reply, I beg leave to state that owing to circumstances over which I, as Secretary of the Canadian Rifle Association, have no control, there has not been any meeting of the Council of the Association, and I have only to refer you to my letter of the 29th May last, and to state that a Military District Rifle Association has just been formed, of which you are, of course, already aware. Every desire was expressed by the members of the Canadian Rifle Association, individually, with whom I have spoken, to form an amalgamation, but until a "meeting" take place, nothing official can be transmitted.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

[Signed,] W. B. JARVIS, LIEUT. COL.,
Secretary.

CAPTAIN MACDONALD,
Secretary U. C. R. Association.

At a meeting of the Council of the Upper Canadian Rifle Association, held on the 2nd October, 1861, the above letter having been read, it was

Resolved,—That the letter from Lieutenant Colonel Jarvis, dated 14th September, 1861, being received and read,—It is resolved that the communication conveying, as it does, no guar-

antee that an answer will, or can be received officially to the communication of the Secretary of this Council, proposing an amalgamation with the Canadian Rifle Association,—this Council, therefore, now determines (after waiting five months for an answer) to proceed with its original object.

A meeting of the Managing Committee was held on Thursday November 7th, 1861, when the President, Colonel Denison, was requested to proceed to Quebec to invite His Excellency, Lord Monck, to honor the Association by being its Patron. On his return from, Quebec, Colonel Denison presented the following report:

To the Managing Committee of the Council of the Upper Canadian Rifle Association.

GENTLEMEN,—

Your Committee, (with a view of carrying out a Bye-law of the Association,) having requested me, as President, to invite His Excellency, Lord Monck, to become Patron of our Association, I proceeded last week to Quebec for that purpose, and I have much gratification in being able to report, for the information of the Council, that at an interview with His Excellency, the Governor General,—our Commander-in-Chief, he cheerfully consented to become Patron of the *Upper Canadian Rifle Association*, and at a second interview, he promised to give a Prize for competition and to endeavor to obtain for us the Medal offered by the National Rifle Association of Great Britain to Colonial Associations, and furthermore, I beg to report that His Excellency also kindly offered to be present and to distribute our prizes to the successful competitors.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

[Signed] GEO. T. DENISON, COLONEL,
President U. C. R. A.

Rusholme, Toronto, November 16, 1861.

RULES

OF THE

Upper Canadian Rifle Association.

1. The object of the Association is to give permanence to Volunteer Corps, and to promote rifle shooting throughout Upper Canada.

2. The Association shall consist of all annual subscribers of four dollars and donors of forty dollars.

3. There shall be a Patron, and his Excellency the Right Honorable Viscount Monck, shall be invited to honor the Association as its Patron.

4. There shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Council of sixteen, exclusive of three Trustees, who shall, *ex officio*, be members of the Council, of which six shall be a quorum.

5. All office-holders of the Association, excep- Judges or Umpires, shall be officers of the Active Force.

6. There shall be one meeting annually for Rifle Shooting, at such time and place as the Council may determine.

7. A meeting of the members of the Association shall be held annually, at such time and place as the Council may determine.

8. At this meeting the members shall elect the President, Vice-Presidents, Council and Trustees for the ensuing year.

9. The Council shall be composed of six officers of the Toronto Force, and ten officers belonging to outer stations; all the office holders of the Association shall vacate their offices every year, but shall be eligible for re-election.

10. The President and Vice-Presidents shall be members, *ex officio*, of the Council.

11. The Funds of the Association shall be deposited in a Bank, (to be named by the Council,) to the credit of the Association.

12 Three Trustees shall be appointed at the annual meeting, to manage the expenditure of Association Monies, which are to be paid out on the joint cheque of two.

13. All expenditure must be first sanctioned by the Council.

14. The Council shall have sole management of the income and funds of the association, rendering an account yearly at the annual meeting, such account being previously audited by a person or persons, not members of the Council, to be

annually named by the Council for that purpose. The Council shall also have the entire management and superintendence of all other affairs and concerns thereof, and shall and may do all such acts as shall appear to them necessary or essential to be done, for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects and views of the Association.

15. The Council shall be regulated in their proceedings by such By-Laws as may from time to time be enacted by them—no established By-Laws being in any case altered, or, new ones proposed, without at least a fortnights notice being given to each member of the Council.

16. There shall be a Secretary appointed by the Council who shall, *ex-officio*, be a member thereof.

17. The majority of the prizes shall be open to *bona fide* Members, (of at least three months standing) of Volunteer Companies that have joined the Association.

18. To enable a Company to be affiliated to the Association so as to allow its Members to compete for prizes, it must contribute ten dollars annually to the Funds of the Association. Officers, members of the Association, shall also be allowed to compete.

19. No Volunteer shall be allowed to compete unless he appears in the uniform of his corps.

20. Prizes shall also be given, which shall be open to all comers, whether belonging to Volunteer Corps or not, on payment of two dollars by each competitor, which payment shall entitle him to a certain number of shots—and the money thus obtained shall form a fund, from which these open prizes shall be given—the Council shall, however, have the power to supplement this fund at their discretion, from the general funds of the Association.

21. An Umpire shall be appointed by the Council.

22. The Council shall appoint an officer to command the Volunteers who have assembled to compete for the prizes, which officer shall be responsible for the maintenance of order and discipline at the different ranges.

23. The firing shall be conducted, in accordance with the regulations of the Hythe School of Musketry, unless otherwise ordered by the Council.

24. The prizes shall be competed for in accordance with such By-Laws as may be annually passed by the Council.

25. The place and time of meeting shall be publicly announced, and advertised at least three months' before such meeting takes place.

26. The Council shall decide the number and amount of the prizes to be given, as well as fix the extent of the ranges, and settle all the details connected with the meeting—and they shall cause due notice of all such matters to be given to the public.

27. An Annual Report, embracing the audited account of the Finances, shall be drawn up by the Secretary, and shall, having been previously submitted to the Council, be published as soon as possible after the annual meeting.

28. All entries shall be made at least twenty-one days before the meeting, and no subsequent entry shall be made, except with the permission of the Council, and on payment of an entrance fee of two dollars.

29. All donations shall be invested in Government, or first class securities, so as to form a capital fund, the interest of which, shall be annually expended in prizes.

96. The Council shall decide the number and amount of the prizes to be given, as well as the extent of the ranges, and settle all the details connected with the meeting—and thus shall cause due notice of all such matters to be given to the public.

97. An Annual Report, embracing the audited account of the Expenses, shall be drawn up by the Secretary, and shall, having been previously submitted to the Council, be published as soon as possible after the annual meeting.

98. All entries shall be made at least twenty-four days before the meeting, and no subsequent entry shall be made, except with the permission of the Council, and the payment of an entrance fee of two dollars.

99. All donations shall be invested in Government, first class securities, so as to form a capital fund, the interest of which, shall be annually expended in prizes.